



# News Release

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## **Elementary school near Spokane on bottled water**

**OLYMPIA** — Great Northern Elementary School near Spokane is providing bottled water to students and staff because routine water testing showed *E. coli* bacteria in the school's drinking water supply.

The bottled-water advisory affects **only** the 52-student elementary school and a caretaker's residence. School district staff and the Washington Department of Health will inspect the school's water system today to try to find the contamination source. The advisory will remain in effect until any needed improvements are made and testing confirms the water is safe to drink.

After receiving the lab test results Tuesday, the school district staff immediately shut off drinking fixtures and sent notices home with students to inform parents and guardians of the situation. The school does not provide food service.

Although most strains of *E. coli* are harmless, the presence of these bacteria indicates that fecal contaminants are entering the water system. If parents see symptoms of gastrointestinal illness in their children, they should consult a health care provider.

"Keeping our students and staff healthy at school is our top priority," said Superintendent Glenn Frizzell. "Our focus now is to resolve this issue and ensure that safe drinking water is provided to our school's students and staff."

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.